

Amendments to the Specification:

The following amended paragraphs will replace all prior versions, and listings, of paragraphs in the application:

[0014] The system 100 may include network elements that are able to perform various operations on voice and/or data communication rates carried within such systems. For example, the system 100 may utilize a network element such as a transcoder rate adaption unit (TRAU) (not shown) to handle the use of different codecs and rates. A TRAU may handle transcoding to convert information between two coding schemes, and may provide rate adaptation to handle the use of eight, sixteen, or thirty-two kbps rather than a higher rate such as sixty-four kbps so that networks or network elements using different rates can communicate. In the present example, although the TRAU may functionally belong the BTS 110, it may be located at the BTS 110, the BSC 112, or (immediately in front of) the MSC 120.

[0019] Referring to FIG. 2, one embodiment of a system 200 illustrates various network elements that may be used to provide a call with TFO/cTFO functionality between an R4 architecture and a non-R4 architecture. The system 200 includes the BSC 112, MGW 118, and MSC 120 of FIG. 1, and also includes a MSC 202, a MGW 204, a PSTN 206, a MSC 208, and a BSC 210. As is known in the art, the BSCs 112 and 210 communicate with their respective MSCs as defined by the A interface, each MGW 118, 204 communicates with its respective MSC as defined by the Mc interface using a protocol such as H.248 and with the other MGW as defined by the Nb interface, and the MSCs 120 and 202 communicate using a protocol such as the Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) protocol.